

National Agency Check Questionnaire for Peace Corps Volunteer Background Investigation [OMB Number 0420-0001]. The Agency will also seek an expiration date starting after the 90 day Emergency Clearance and ending three years from that approval date. Section 22 of the Peace Corps Act (22 U.S.C. 2501 et seq.) mandates that "all persons employed or assigned to duties under the Act shall be investigated to ensure employment or assignment is consistent with national interest in accordance with standards and procedures established by the President."

**DATES:** The Peace Corps invites comments until May 8, 2000.

**ADDRESSES:** A copy of the information collection may be obtained from Paul Davis, Manager Placement Unit, Peace Corps, 1111 20th Street NW, Washington, DC 20526. Mr. Davis may be contacted by telephone at (202) 692-1836. Comments on these forms should be addressed to Mr. David Rostker, Desk Officer, Office of Management and Budget, NEOB, Washington, DC 20523.

Dated: February 29, 2000.

**Michael J. Kole,**

*Director of Administrative Services and Certifying Official.*

[FR Doc. 00-5715 Filed 3-8-00; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 6051-01-M**

## SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

[Release No. 35-27144]

### Filings Under the Public Utility Holding Company Act of 1935, as Amended ("Act")

March 1, 2000.

Notice is hereby given that the following filing(s) has/have been made with the Commission pursuant to provisions of the Act and rules promulgated under the Act. All interested persons are referred to the application(s) and/or declaration(s) for complete statements of the proposed transaction(s) summarized below. The application(s) and/or declaration(s) and any amendment(s) is/are available for public inspection through the Commission's Branch of Public Reference.

Interested persons wishing to comment or request a hearing on the application(s) and/or declaration(s) should submit their views in writing by March 23, 2000, to the Secretary, Securities and Exchange Commission, Washington, D.C. 20549-0609, and serve a copy on the relevant applicant(s) and/or declarant(s) at the address(es)

specified below. Proof of service (by affidavit or, in the case of an attorney at law, by certificate) should be filed with the request. Any request for hearing should identify specifically the issues of facts or law that are disputed. A person who so requests will be notified of any hearing, if ordered, and will receive a copy of any notice or order issued in the matter. After March 23, 2000, the applicant(s) and/or declaration(s), as filed or as amended, may be granted and/or permitted to become effective.

*Northeast Utilities (70-9563)*

### Notice of Proposal to Amend Declaration of Trust; Order Authorizing Solicitation of Proxies

Northeast Utilities ("NU"), a registered holding company, located at 174 Brush Hill Avenue, West Springfield, Massachusetts 01090-0010, has filed a declaration under sections 6(a)(2), 7(e) and 12(e) of the Public Utility Holding Company Act of 1935, as amended ("Act"), and rules 62(d) and 65 under the Act.

NU has entered into an Agreement and Plan of Merger ("Merger Agreement"), dated October 13, 1999, amended and restated January 11, 2000, with Consolidated Edison, Inc. ("CEI"), a New York electric and gas public utility holding company exempt from registration under section 3(a)(1) of the Act under rule 2, Consolidated Edison, Inc. ("New CEI"),<sup>1</sup> a Delaware corporation and a wholly owned subsidiary of CEI, and N Acquisition LLC ("N Acquisition"), a Massachusetts limited liability company, which is directly and indirectly owned by New CEI. Under the Merger Agreement, CEI will be merged with and into New CEI, with New CEI as the surviving corporation, and N Acquisition will be merged with and into NU, with NU as the surviving entity ("Merger"). On January 20, 2000, NU and CEI filed a separate application-declaration (file no. 70-9613) with this Commission requesting authority to consummate the Merger.

NU proposes to make certain amendments ("Amendments") to its Declaration of Trust ("Trust Agreement"). The Amendment would specifically authorize NU to consummate a merger with one or more domestic limited liability companies under Massachusetts law.<sup>2</sup> The

<sup>1</sup> New CEI was originally incorporated as CWB Holdings, Inc.

<sup>2</sup> The Trust Agreement already authorizes the NU board of trustees to sell, lease or otherwise dispose of any part or parts of the properties of NU to the extent permitted by law. Under Massachusetts law, however, for a business trust to merge with another

Amendments would also allow the number of trustees resulting from the merger to be fixed by the agreement providing for the merger.

NU also proposes to solicit proxies from its common shareholders for the purposes of obtaining required shareholder approvals related to the merger. Specifically, NU proposes to solicit proxies from its common shareholders to approve the Amendments and the Merger Agreement at a special meeting, which is expected to be held in the spring of 2000.

The proposed Amendments, which will be effected regardless of whether the Merger is consummated, and the Merger Agreement must be approved by an affirmative vote of two-thirds of all NU shareholders eligible to vote. The Amendments and the Merger have already been approved by the unanimous vote of the NU board of trustees.

NU requests that an order authorizing the solicitation of proxies be issued as soon as practicable under rule 62(d). It appears to the Commission that NU's declaration regarding the proposed solicitation of proxies should be permitted to become effective immediately under rule 62(d).

Fees, commissions, and expenses to be incurred in connection with the transactions described in the declaration are expected not to exceed \$500,000. NU states that no state or federal commission, other than this Commission, has jurisdiction over the proposed transactions.

*It is ordered*, under rule 62 under the Act, that the declaration regarding the proposed solicitation of proxies can become effective immediately, subject to the terms and conditions contained in rule 24 under the Act.

For the Commission, by the Division of Investment Management, under delegated authority.

**Margaret H. McFarland,**

*Deputy Secretary.*

[FR Doc. 00-5645 Filed 3-8-00; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 8010-01-M**

## SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

### Sunshine Act Meeting

Notice is hereby given, pursuant to the provisions of the Government in the Sunshine Act, Pub. L. 94-409, that the Securities and Exchange Commission

entity, its declaration of trust must explicitly authorize such a transaction. The Trust Agreement currently does not authorize NU to merge with another entity.